Steps taken by Pakistan to create conducive atmosphere for dialogue

216. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) apart from Pakistan deciding to stop cross-border infiltration, what other steps have been taken to create conducive atmosphere for future dialogue; and

(b) how does Pakistan expect that tension between the two countries would be eased when it still has not allowed the use of its air space to India ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) and (b) It is well known that Pakistan has been engaged in the sponsorship of cross-border terrorism directed against India in violation of international law and bilateral agreements. Government have taken appropriate diplomatic and other measures to effectively defeat the menace of cross-border terrorism. Pakistan has now made a commitment to stop cross-border infiltration on a permanent basis, not to allow the territory of Pakistan to be used for terrorism anywhere in the world, or any organisation in Pakistan to indulge in terrorism in the name of Kashmir. Should Pakistan operationalise its intention to move purposefully towards eradicating cross-border terrorism, India will be prepared to resume bilateral dialogue to address outstanding issues and enhance co-operation.

International support to combat terrorism

217. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) the constructive effort together International support for India to combat terrorism after the incident of 13th December, 2001;

(b) the names of the countries who support India's stand on International Cross-Border Terrorism; and

(c) the level of support these countries are willing to extend to India on the issue ?

1713 GIPMR/03—9

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI DIGVIJAY SINGH) : (a) Government have been, appropriately and effectively, bringing to the attention of the international community facts pertaining to Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism in J&K and other parts of India. The issue has also been raised during high level interactions with the world leaders. In the aftermath of December 13 attack, apart from diplomatic and other measures to pressurize Pakistan to give up its support for cross-border terorism the Government sent high level delegations comprising members from both Houses of Parliament, distinguished scholars and former diplomats who visited selected countries in Europe, West Asia, Gulf, South East Asia and Africa. The visiting delegations appropriately and effectively highlighted Pakistan's sponsorship of cross-border terrorism. Similar and consistent effort was also made in various world capitals by Indian Missions abroad.

(b) and (c) The December 13 and May 14 terrorist attacks served to spotlight the fact that the real epicenter of terrorism in our region continued to lie in Pakistan. There is a wide spread international support for India's strong determination to resist terrorism until it is decisively crushed. The consensus in the international community is that there is no justification for terrorism, which must be eradicated wherever it exists, and that Pakistan must put an end to cross-border infiltration and terrorism on a permanent basis.

In its fight against terrorism, India has also received effective operational and policy level co-operation from several countries, including through Joint Working Groups on terrorism.

Visit of U.S. Representatives to defuse Indo-Pak tension

218. SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether in the month of May, 2002 U.S. had sent a number of representatives to defuse Indo-Pak tension;

(b) if so, whether due to the sense of urgency in U.S., a number of steps were taken to reduce the tension between India and Pakistan;